Storage and Marketing for Non-Foodgrain Food Products

1380. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the non-foodgrain food products are perishable in nature;

(b) if so, whether due to inadequate post-harvest technologies, storage and marketing infrastructure, a large quantity of such food products is wasted;

(c) if so, the magnitude thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to strengthen post-harvest technology, storage and marketing infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Although no scientific study has been conducted, however, it is estimated that the post harvest losses in respect of horticultural produce varies from 8-37% as per the Report of the Sub-Working Group on Post Harvest Management, Marketing and Export for IX Plan.

(d) In order to strengthen post harvest technology, storage and marketing infrastructure, the Government is implementing several schemes through its •agencies / organizations which include, *inter-alia,* National Horticulture Board (NHB), Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (1CAR) and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

Under the schemes of "Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction / Expansion / Modernization of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Produce' and Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post Harvest Management, implemented by NHB, back-ended capital investment subsidy is provided for construction / expansion / modernization of cold storages for horticulture produce and for setting up of refer vans / containers; pre-cooling units; cool stores; etc. APEDA is providing financial assistance under various components of its Scheme for Infrastructure Development which, *inter-alia,* include components such as purchase of specialized transport units for meat, horticulture and floriculture sector; setting up of integrated post harvest handling system (pack house); establishment of infrastructural facilities. APEDA has also set up the perishable handling cargo

complex at Hyderabad, Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai and Trivendrum; a floriculture marketing centre at Netherlands, and another hi-tech perishable centre is being set up at Mumbai airport. NCDC provides financial assistance to fruit and vegetable co-operative societies of horticulture growers for development of marketing, purchase of transport vehicles, construction of godowns / sheds for storage of horticulture produce, etc. Under All India Coordinated Research Project on Post Harvest Technology, implemented by ICAR, location specific research is undertaken to strengthen post harvest technology and storage activities. A number of technologies related to storage, handling, transport, packaging and value addition have been developed by R&D organizations to reduce losses and increase shelf life of the produce and products.

Besides the above, Ministry of Food Processing Industries under its plan scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities provides financial assistance for establishment of cold storages for non-horticultural produce; where the cold storage is an integral part of the processing unit or of the common facilities in food park; special type of cold storage with Controlled Atmosphere / Modified Atmosphere facility.

Misappropriation of Foodgrains for NP-NSPE

1381. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of foodgrains supplied under the National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education Programme has been misappropriated by the transporters and distributing agencies;

(b) if so, the details of such cases that came to the notice of Government in this regard; and

(c) the action taken / being taken by Government against those responsible for such misappropriation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) According to the Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the period ending March, 2000 on the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education, during 1995—98, 1.40 lakh quintals of foodgrains were misappropriated by the transporters and distributing agencies in the five States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland and Uttar Pradesh.